Late July 1969

Harold Weisberg and John Nichols

Dear Harold/John:

I would like to write up a memo on the three sets of unidentified marks on the base of cartridge case CE543. The explanation will probably be in accordance with what I mentioned in a previous letter. Before I write, however, I would like to see test cases from other rifles than the one that I use.

Enclosed are three cartridge cases especially prepared to make the desired marks noticeable. Please do the following with each of the three cases:

(1) Insert the case manually into the chamber of your rifle. Do not use the clip at all; just slip the case by hand into the open breech.
(2) Thrust the bolt vigorously forward over the chambered cartridge case, and-- if you can-- turn the bolt so that it locks over the case.
(3) Draw back the bolt. If I understand your rifles correctly, the cartridge case will not be extracted from the chamber. To remove the cartridge case, push a rod through the rifle bore from the muzzle end, and push out the cartridge case.
(4) Examine the base of the case and be sure that it is marked near the rim. If not, try the same process again until you either get a set of marks or are satisfied that your rifle will not produce them.

When you have done this with all three cases, please re-pack them in the box and return them to me.

It is my understanding that your respective rifles will function as follows:

(1) Harold's bolt will completely close and turn over the chambered cartridge case, but the extractor will not grip the rim and the case will not be extracted.
(2) John's bolt will not completely close and turn over the chambered cartridge case. Naturally, the case will not be extracted.

If the rifles you use function differently from that, please tell me.

There is no rush on this, so you can do it at your convenience.

Thanks.

Still,

Dick

Dick Bernabei